

Digital Photography (ART-061-300-001)

Syllabus and Course Policies

Welcome to Art 61: Digital Photography

Photography is an elegant form of visual communication. Learning to use all the tools and techniques of photography is like learning to write the letters of the alphabet and then forming those letters into words, sentences, and meaningful paragraphs.

Photography can then help you tell stories, record ideas and memories, express feelings and emotions, and seek understanding. Visual communication, in many cases, can be even more powerful than words.

This course will help you learn the basics of photography, but its purpose is to help you learn to communicate messages with powerful and beautiful imagery.

Orientation Overview

Before you start the course, you will want to take some time to review the material in the Syllabus. This will help you understand what you can expect from the course and make sure you are ready for success. Make sure you pay careful attention to the **Syllabus** and **Tips and Tools for Success** pages. Best wishes!

What you should already know

This is an introductory course, so there are no prerequisite courses that you should have taken. The course covers some topics you have undoubtedly heard about, but you will expand your knowledge through new concepts and opportunities to apply your understanding.

Learning outcomes

During this course, you will learn the knowledge and skills necessary to do the following:

- Discover how to operate a point-and-shoot camera or a DSLR camera.
- Identify different types of digital cameras, the locations of their basic components, and the benefits and drawbacks of each type.
- Identify and demonstrate the elements of composition.
- Know the history of photography.
- Demonstrate the appropriate use of the camera controls on a digital camera.
- Explore and apply the multistep process of workflow.
- Discover and identify memory devices and file types associated with digital cameras and scanners.
- Demonstrate basic proficiency in the use of Adobe Photoshop.
- Apply and practice copyright laws, ethics, and legal issues dealing with photography as identified in United States Code Title 17, Chapter 1, Section 101.
- Recognize the importance of career readiness skills as they relate to the workplace and as outlined in the SkillsUSA Framework—Level 1.
- Research the careers available in the field of photography.

Course materials

- **Access to a digital camera.** We recommend a digital single-lens reflex (DSLR) camera or a mirrorless interchangeable-lens camera (MILC), but a smartphone camera or a similar device will work nearly as well for most of the course.
- **Access to digital editing software.** We recommend Adobe Photoshop, as it is the industry standard, but there are free alternatives like GIMP and Pixlr that will be sufficient for completing the assignments in this course.
- **Access to the internet.** We do not expect everyone taking this course to have access to the same types of cameras or editing software, so you may need to find online tutorials that match the equipment you have available to you.
- **A tripod (optional).** A tripod would be helpful but is not necessary.

Assignments

ART 061 consists of 15 weeks of lesson content and assignments, plus a final exam. Each week, you can expect to have 2 to 4 lessons where you learn to apply principles of photography. You will also have 8 photography exercises that your instructor will quickly check, sometimes you have a quiz (modules 3, 6, 9, 12, and 14), and you will have 3 photography projects due in Modules 6, 13, and 15.

- Self-checks on pages within the modules
 - Self-check questions will test your retention of the reading and help you review. These questions **do not** count toward your final grade but will help you prepare for the quizzes and final exam.
 - Discussions
 - You will have two discussions in Modules 1 and 2. Discussions are worth 15% of your final grade.
 - Exercises and projects
 - Most modules, you will have an exercise or a project to complete. Exercises are expected to be completed within the module they are assigned. The first projects span 6 modules. The other two projects span a couple of modules. You will work on them a little each week in preparation for turning in a portfolio of images. Exercises and projects will be submitted for instructor grading and will count for 50% of your final grade.
 - Quizzes
 - Every few weeks, you will have a computer-graded quiz. These quizzes will test your retention of the material and help you review for the final exam. Quizzes count for 20% of your final grade.
-

Final Exam

At the end of the course, you will have a comprehensive, computer-graded final exam. The final exam questions will be modeled after the quiz questions. The final exam counts for 15% of your final grade.

Note: Students must pass the final exam with a 60% or higher in order to pass the course.

Grading

Grade breakdown by percentage

This is how your final grade will be calculated:

Assignment	Percentage
Quick Check Assignments(8)	20%
Projects(3)	30%
Quizzes (5)	20%
Discussions (2)	15%
Final exam (1)	15%

The grading scale is listed below. Anything below 60% is failing.

Note: Students must pass the final exam with a 60% or higher in order to pass the course.

Grading Scale			
A	100%–93%	C	76%–73%
A–	92%–90%	C–	72%–70%
B+	89%–87%	D+	69%–67%
B	86%–83%	D	66%–63%
B–	82%–80%	D–	62%–60%
C+	79%–77%	E (fail)	59% or below

Resubmissions and Retakes

For information about resubmitting assignments and retaking the exam, please see [Resubmissions and Retakes](#).